

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the second Office Action dated December 30, 2003, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire March 30, 2004.

Claims 1 and 2 Are Not Anticipated By Wilhite

Claim 1 recites in part,

determining a frequency provided to power the CCFL circuit based on a duty cycle of a driving waveform to the CCFL circuit.

Applicant submits that Wilhite fails to disclose or suggest these limitations. The Office Action cites Fig. 5, elements 405 and 415 of Wilhite as teaching these limitations. This figure teaches an exemplary quadrature generator. Col. 4, lines 66-67. As Wilhite teaches,

By producing output signals with direct phase relationships to the input signals in this manner, the present invention permits use of the apparatus as a quadrature generator in the upconverter and down-converter of a negative feedback transmitter.

Col. 3, lines 49-53. Of importance, nothing in Fig. 5 teaches powering a CCFL circuit, much less basing the frequency to drive the CCFL circuit on a duty cycle. In fact, Wilhite teaches that the duty cycle adjuster adds or subtracts delay to change the duty cycle. Wilhite teaches nothing regarding determining a frequency provided to power the CCFL circuit based on a duty cycle of a driving waveform to the CCFL circuit.

In contrast, as taught by Applicant in paragraph [0051] of the Specification,

if the average value of the OUTAPB signal is equal to the reference voltage VR2, then the duty cycle of the OUTAPB signal is close to 50%. As determined by the assignee of the present invention, a switching circuit with a 50% duty

cycle has lower root-mean-square (RMS) currents than a similar circuit running at a smaller duty cycle. Thus, a 50% duty cycle leads to fewer I^2R losses and higher operating efficiency. Additionally, a 50% duty cycle signal, when driving the LC network (comprising inductor 106 and capacitor 107) near its resonant frequency, produces less unwanted higher order harmonic frequencies at node N2 than a driving signal at a much lower duty cycle.

Hence, the importance of determining a frequency provided to power the CCFL circuit **based on a duty cycle of a driving waveform to the CCFL circuit, as recited by Applicant in Claim 1.**

Wilhite fails to teach anything regarding or recognize the advantages in using the duty cycle of the driving waveform in determining the frequency provided to power the CCFL circuit. Therefore, because Wilhite cannot anticipate these limitations, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1.

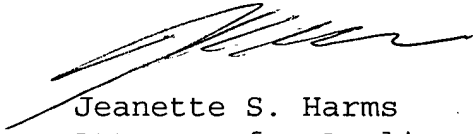
Claim 2-8 depends from Claim 1 and therefore are patentable for at least the reasons presented above for Claim 1. Based on those reasons, Applicants also request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 2-8.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-13, 31, 32, 38, and 39 are pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

If there are any questions, please telephone the undersigned at 408-451-5907 to expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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